

# WILKERSON ♦ BRYAN

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JUN 30 2016

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June 29, 2016

## CONFIDENTIAL FILING

### VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Marlene H. Dortch  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
9300 East Hampton Drive  
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

**RE: WC Docket No. 14-58  
2016 ETC Annual Report of New Hope Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Study Area Code 250308**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

In conjunction with the annual reporting requirements of 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313 and 54.422, New Hope Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("New Hope"), an Alabama rate of return carrier and a recipient of high cost support, respectfully submits the enclosed confidential version of the FCC Form 481 ETC annual reporting information. New Hope seeks confidential treatment under Protective Order for Section 54.313(f)(2) financial information, as specified in the FCC's Protective Order in WC Docket Nos. 10-90 and 14-58, DA 16-296, rel. March 22, 2016 (the "Protective Order"), as well as confidential treatment of its Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan Progress Report required by 47 C.F.R. § 54.313, pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457 and 0.459. New Hope has electronically filed the redacted version of its FCC Form 481 via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System.

The confidential information is required by 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(f)(2) and includes detailed financial information that is competitively sensitive and would not normally be made available for public inspection. Disclosure of this information would have a substantial negative impact on New Hope. Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 0.049(b), New Hope provides the following information in support of its request that the confidential material enclosed herein be withheld from public inspection.

47 C.F.R. § 0.049(b)(1). Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") protects "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person [that is]

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List ABCDE

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June 29, 2016

privileged or confidential." New Hope maintains this information is confidential, competitively sensitive data not normally made available to the public, which, if released, would have a substantial, negative competitive impact on New Hope. Each page of the non-redacted version of this filing containing confidential information is marked as "CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION."

47 C.F.R. § 049(b)(2). This information is being submitted in compliance with 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(f)(2) and is to be filed in WC Docket No. 10-90. Privately-held rate of return carriers that receive high cost support must complete the FCC Form 481, to include "[a] full and complete annual support of the company's financial condition and operations as of the end of the preceding fiscal year." New Hope is requesting that portions of this information be afforded confidential treatment.

47 C.F.R. § 049(b)(3). The information designated as confidential is detailed financial information including a balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement that is competitively sensitive information not normally made available to the public, which, if released, would have a substantial, negative competitive impact on New Hope.

47 C.F.R. § 049(b)(4)&(5). Such financial information is generally not subject to routine public inspection under 47 C.F.R. § 0.457(d), which would subject New Hope to substantial competitive harm.

47 C.F.R. § 049(b)(6)&(7). New Hope has routinely treated the non-public information included in this submission as confidential and has protected it from disclosure to outside parties. Any financial information required to be submitted to state regulatory authorities has also been filed as confidential information, in accordance with state rules and/or statutes.

47 C.F.R. § 049(b)(8). New Hope believes that this information should be treated as confidential for a minimum period of ten years.

In its *March 5, 2013 Order*,<sup>1</sup> the FCC specified that for rate-of-return carriers, the five-year plans "should describe the carrier's network improvement plan, which should provide greater visibility into current plans to extend broadband service to unserved locations in rate-of-return service territories." New Hope's Progress Report updates this information as well as provides maps and detailed information as to whether or not network improvement objectives were achieved at the wire center level. Accordingly, because New Hope is a rate-of-return carrier, it must file Progress Reports which contain proprietary, competitively sensitive information related to the company's existing network, including the specific locations of customers, proposed improvements or upgrades and maintenance of its network throughout its service area, projected capital costs associated with the improvements and upgrades, and operating costs associated with maintaining the network, including depreciation for investments that have already been made. As such, this information contains competitively sensitive

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<sup>1</sup> See *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket 10-90 *et al.*, Order, DA 13-332 (rel. March 5, 2013) at para 9.

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
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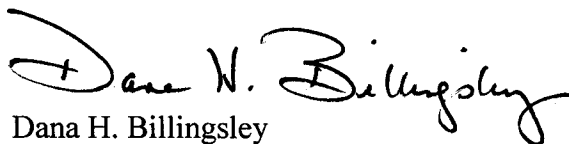
information related to New Hope's existing network, for which confidential treatment of its Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan Progress Report is requested.

As required in the Protective Order, two copies of the redacted confidential information are being filed simultaneously with the non-redacted confidential information, marked as "REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION."

Questions regarding this matter should be addressed to us at the telephone number shown above.

Very Truly Yours,

WILKERSON & BRYAN, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dana H. Billingsley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "B".

Dana H. Billingsley  
Attorney for New Hope Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Enclosure

cc: Jim Cook, General Manager

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# REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Page 1

<b>FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting</b> <b>Data Collection Form</b>	<b>FCC Form 481</b> <b>OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819</b> <b>July 2013</b>
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<010> Study Area Code	250308	<b>Received &amp; Inspected</b> <b>JUN 30 2016</b>
<015> Study Area Name	NEW HOPE TEL COOP	
<020> Program Year	2017	
<030> Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Tammy Weeks	<b>FCC Mailroom</b>
<035> Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	2567234211 ext.	
<039> Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	tammyw@nehp.net	
Form Type	54.313 and 54.422	

(100) Service Quality Improvement Reporting  
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	250308
<015>	Study Area Name	NEW HOPE TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tammy Weeks
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2567234211 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tammy@neshp.net

<110>	Has your company received its ETC certification from the FCC? if your answer to Line <110> is yes, do you have an existing §54.202(a) "5 year plan" filed with the FCC?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> (yes / no)
<111>		<input type="radio"/> (yes / no)

If your answer to Line <111> is yes, please file a progress report, on line  
<112> delineating the status of your company's existing § 54.202(a) "5 year  
plan" on file with the FCC, as it relates to your provision of voice telephony  
service.

Attach Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan or, in subsequent years,  
your annual progress report filed pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(1). If your company is a  
CETC which only receives frozen support, your progress report is only  
required to address voice telephony service.

250308a1112.pdf

Name of Attached Document

Please select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm  
that the attached document(s), on line 112, contains a progress report on its five-year  
service quality improvement plan pursuant to §54.202(a). The information shall be  
submitted at the wire center level or census block as appropriate.

<113>	Maps detailing progress towards meeting plan targets	Yes
<114>	Report how much universal service (USF) support was received	Yes
<115>	How much (USF) was used to improve service quality and how support was used to improve service quality	Yes
<116>	How much (USF) was used to improve service coverage and how support was used to improve service coverage	Yes
<117>	How much (USF) was used to improve service capacity and how support was used to improve service capacity	Yes
<118>	Provide an explanation of network improvement targets not met in the prior calendar year.	Not Applicable

FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<01>	Study Area Code	250308
<01>	Study Area Name	NEW HOPE TEL COOP
<02>	Program Year	2017
<03>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	
<03>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2567234211 ext.
<03>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tammy.weneshp.net

**<210> For the prior calendar year, were there any reportable voice service outages?**

[illegible]

(300) Unfulfilled Service Request  
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010> Study Area Code	250308
<015> Study Area Name	NEW HOPE TEL COOP
<020> Program Year	2017
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tammy Weeks
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2567234211 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tammyw@nehp.net
<300> Unfulfilled service request (voice)	0
<310> Detail on attempts (voice)	
<320> Unfulfilled service request (broadband)	0
<330> Detail on attempts (broadband)	

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(400) Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
--	--

<010>	Study Area Code	250108
<015>	Study Area Name	KEN HOPE TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tarry Weeks
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2567234213 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tarryw@nehp.net
<400>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report voice complaints (zero or greater) for voice telephony service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize.	Offered only fixed voice
<410>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed voice	0.0
<420>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile voice	
<430>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report end-user customer complaints (zero or greater) for broadband service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize.	Offered only fixed broadband
<440>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed broadband	0.0
<450>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile broadband	



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(500) Compliance With Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules  
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0985/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	250308
<015>	Study Area Name	NEW HOPE TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tanny Neeka
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2567234211 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tanny@tnehp.net
<500>	Certify compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules	Yes
<510>	Descriptive document for Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	250308a1510.pdf

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<b>(600) Functionality in Emergency Situations</b>		<b>FCC Form 481</b>
<b>Data Collection Form</b>		<b>OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819</b>
		<b>July 2013</b>
<010>	Study Area Code	250308
<015>	Study Area Name	FEW HOPE TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tarany Weeks
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2567234211 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tarany@2rehp.net
<600>	Certify compliance regarding ability to function in emergency situations	Yes
<610>	Descriptive document for Functionality in Emergency Situations	250308a1610.pdf

FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0985/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

1/1/2016
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[illegible]

(710) Broadband Price Offerings  
Data Collection Form

250308

NEW HOPE TEL COOP

2017

Tammy Weeks

2567234211 ext.

tammy@newhp.net

FCB Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010> Study Area Code

<015> Study Area Name

<020> Program Year

<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data

<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>

<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>

<a1>	<a2>	<b1>	<b2>	<c>	<d1>	<d2>	<d3>	<d4>
State	Exchange (ILEC)	Residential Rate	State Regulated Fees	Total Rate and Fees	Broadband Service - Download Speed (Mbps)	Broadband Service - Upload Speed (Mbps)	Usage Allowance (GB)	Usage Allowance Action Taken When Limit Reached {select }
								</

(800) Operating Companies  
Data Collection Form  
FCC Form 431  
OMB Control No: 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	250308
<015>	Study Area Name	NEW HOPE TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tammy Weeks
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2567234211 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tammyw@nehp.net
<810>	Reporting Carrier	New Hope Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
<811>	Holding Company	New Hope Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (AL)
<812>	Operating Company	New Hope Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

[illegible]

(900) Tribal Lands Reporting  
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No: 3060-0086 / OMB Control No: 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	250308
<015>	Study Area Name	NEW HOPE TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tammy Weeks
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2567234211 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tammyw@nchp.net

<900>	Does the filing entity offer tribal land services? (Y/N)	No
<910>	Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves	

<920>	Tribal Government Engagement Obligation	
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Name of Attached Document

If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes, No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached document(s), on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:

- <921> Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions.
- <922> Feasibility and sustainability planning;
- <923> Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;
- <924> Compliance with Rights of way processes
- <925> Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements
- <926> Compliance with Facilities Siting rules
- <927> Compliance with Environmental Review processes
- <928> Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes
- <929> Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.

Select Yes or No or Not Applicable

(1000) Voice and Broadband Service Rate Comparability  
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	250308
<015>	Study Area Name	NEW HOPE TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tammy Weeks
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2567234211 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tammyw@nehp.net

<1000>	Voice services rate comparability certification	Yes	Name of Attached Document
<1010>	Attach detailed description for voice services rate comparability compliance		Yes - Pricing is no more than the most recent applicable benchmark announced by the Wireline Competition Bureau
<1020>	Broadband comparability certification		Name of Attached Document
<1030>	Attach detailed description for broadband comparability compliance		

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(1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting  
Data Collection FormFCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	250308
<015>	Study Area Name	NEW HOPE TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tammy Weeks
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2567234211 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tammy@nabp.net

&lt;1100&gt; Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Y/N)

Yes

<1130> Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).



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(1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers		FCC Form 481	
Lifeline		OMB Control No. 3060-0386/OMB Control No. 3060-0819	
Data Collection Form		July 2013	

<010>	Study Area Code	250308
<015>	Study Area Name	NEW HOPE TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tammy Weeks
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2567234211 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tammyw@nelp.net

&lt;1210&gt; Terms &amp; Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

Name of Attached Document

&lt;1220&gt; Link to Public Website

HTTP

<http://nhtc.coop/products-and-services/phone/lifeline-assistance/>

"Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

<1221> Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers, ☒

<1222> Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan, ☒

<1223> Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan. ☒

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(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation		FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form		OVB Control No. 3060-0986/OVB Control No. 3060-0819
Including Rate-of-Retain Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers		July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	250308
<015>	Study Area Name	NEW HOPE TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tammy Weeks
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	256/234211 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tammy@nelp.net

Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental High Cost support. High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e). The information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting

<2010> 2nd Year Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)(i) - Note that for the July 1 2016 certification, this applies to Round 2 recipients of Incremental Support

<2011> 3rd Year Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)(ii) - Note that for the July 1 2016 certification, this applies to Round 1 recipients of Incremental Support

<2022> Recipient certifies, representing year two after filing a notice of acceptance of funding pursuant to 54.312(c), that the locations in question are not receiving support under the Broadband Initiatives Program or the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program for projects that will provide broadband with speeds of at least 4 Mbps/1Mbps - 54.313(b)(2)(i). Round 2 recipients only.

<2023> The attachment on line 2024 includes a statement of the total amount of capital funding expended in the previous year in meeting Connect America Phase I deployment obligations, accompanied by a list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent. This covers year two - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.

<2024A> Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?

<2024B> Attach list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent in year two - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.

<2025A> Round 1 or Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?

<2025B> Attach geocoded information for Phase I milestone reports (Round 1 for year three and Round 2 for year two) - Connect America Fund , WC Docket 10-90, Report and Order, FCC 13-

<2015> 2016 and future Frozen Support Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4)

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

## REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)	FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers	July 2013

**Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support {47 CFR § 54.313(d)}**

&lt;2016&gt; Certification support used to build broadband

**Connect America Phase II Reporting {47 CFR § 54.313(e)}**

&lt;2017A&gt; Connect America Fund Phase II recipient?

<2017B> Attach information for Phase II - 54.313(e)(1) - list of geocoded locations already meeting the 54.309 public interest obligations at the end of calendar year 2015 and total amount of Phase II support, if any, the price

cap carrier used for capital expenditures in 2015.

<2018> Attach the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the carrier newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year - 54.313(e)(2)(ii)

<2019> Recipient certifies that it bid on category one telecommunications and Internet access services in response to all FCC Form 470 postings seeking broadband service that meets the connectivity targets for the schools and libraries universal service support program for eligible schools and libraries located within any area in a census block where the carrier is receiving Phase II model-based support, and that such bids were at rates reasonably comparable to rates charged to eligible schools and libraries in urban areas for comparable offerings - 54.313(e)(2)(v)

<2020> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 40% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2017 - 54.313(e)(3)

<2021> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 60% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2018 - 54.313(e)(4)

<2026> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 80% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2019 - 54.313(e)(5)

<2027> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 100% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2020 - 54.313(e)(6)

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(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation  
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	250308
<015>	Study Area Name	NEW HOPE TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tammy Weeks
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2567234211 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tammyw@nehp.net

Complete the items below to note compliance with five year service quality plan (pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.202(a)) and, for privately held carriers, ensuring compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

(3009) Progress Report on 5 Year Plan  
Carrier certifies to 54.313(f)(1)(iii)

Yes - Attach Certification

(3010A) Milestone Certification {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i)}

250308a13010.pdf

(3010B) Please Provide Attachment

Name of Attached Document Listing Required  
Information

(3012A) Community Anchor Institutions (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(iii))

No - No New Community Anchors

(3012B) Please Provide Attachment

Name of Attached Document Listing Required  
Information

(3013) Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2)}

(Yes/No)

☒ ☐

(3014) If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report

(Yes/No)

☒ ☐

Please check these boxes to confirm that the attached PDF, on line 3017, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2) compliance requires:

(3015) Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers)

☒

(3016) Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows

☒

(3017) If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation

Name of Attached Document Listing Required  
Information

250308a13017.pdf

(3018) If the response is no on line 3014, is your company audited?

(Yes/No)

☐ ☐

If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:

(3019) Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers

☐

(3020) Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows

☐

(3021) Management letter and/or audit opinion issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit.

☐

If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:

(3022) Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers

☐

(3023) Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant

☐

(3024) Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.

☐

(3025) Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows

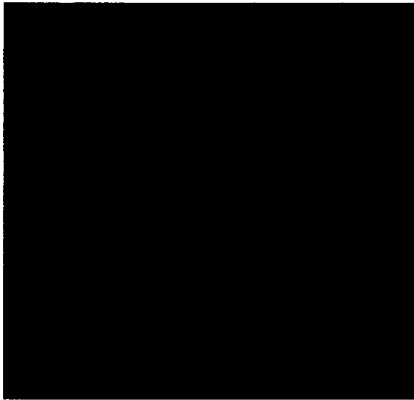
☐

(3026) Attach the worksheet listing required information

Name of Attached Document Listing Required  
Information

(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)		FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
		July 2013

<010> Study Area Code	250108
<015> Study Area Name	NEW HOPE TEL COOP
<020> Program Year	2017
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tammy Weeks
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2567234211 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tammy@nethp.net



Financial Data Summary  
(3027) Revenue  
(3028) Operating Expenses  
(3029) Net Income  
(3030) Telephone Plant In Service (TPIS)  
(3031) Total Assets  
(3032) Total Debt  
(3033) Total Equity  
(3034) Dividends

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(4005) Rural Broadband Experiment Additional Documentation Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	250308
<015>	Study Area Name	NEW HOPE TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tammy Krohn
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2567234211 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tammyv@nehp.net

## 4005 Rural Broadband Experiment

Authorized Rural Broadband Experiment (RBE) recipients must address the certification for public interest obligations, provide a list of newly served community anchor institutions, and provide a list of locations where broadband has been deployed.

### Public Interest Obligations – FCC 14-98 (paragraphs 26-29, 78)

Please address Line 4001 regarding compliance with the Commission's public interest obligations. All RBE participants must provide a response to Line 4001.

4001. Recipient certifies that it is offering broadband to the identified locations meeting the requisite public interest obligations consistent with the category for which they were selected, including broadband speed, latency, usage capacity, and rates that are reasonably comparable to rates for comparable offerings in urban areas?

### Community Anchor Institutions – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 79)

4003a. RBE participants must provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which they newly deployed broadband service in the preceding calendar year. On this line, please respond (yes – attach new community anchors, no – no new anchors) to indicate whether this list will be provided.

If yes to 4003A, please provide a response for 4003B.

4003b. Provide the number, names and addresses  
Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information  
of community anchor institutions to which the  
recipient newly began providing access to  
broadband service in the preceding calendar year.

### Broadband Deployment Locations – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 80)

4004a. Attach a list of geocoded locations to  
which broadband has been deployed as of the  
June 1st immediately preceding the July 1st filing  
deadline for the FCC Form 481.  
Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

4004b. Attach evidence demonstrating that the  
recipient is meeting the relevant public service  
obligations for the identified locations. Materials  
must at least detail the pricing, offered broadband  
speed and data usage allowances available in the  
relevant geographic area.  
Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

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<b>Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	250308
<015> Study Area Name	NEW HOPE TEL COOP
<020> Program Year	2017
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tammy Weeks
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2567234211 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tammyw@nehp.net

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:

<b>Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients</b>	
I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier: NEW HOPE TEL COOP	
Signature of Authorized Officer: CERTIFIED ONLINE	Date 06/29/2016
Printed name of Authorized Officer: James Cook	
Title or position of Authorized Officer: Gen Mgr	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer: 2567234211 ext.	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: 250308	Filing Due Date for this form: 07/01/2016
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

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Certification - Agent / Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0985/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	250308
<015> Study Area Name	NEW HOPE TEL COOP
<020> Program Year	2017
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tammy Weeks
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2567234211 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tammyw@nehp.net

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:

Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I certify that (Name of Agent) _____ is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.	
Name of Authorized Agent: _____	
Name of Reporting Carrier: _____	
Signature of Authorized Officer: _____	Date: _____
Printed name of Authorized Officer: _____	
Title or position of Authorized Officer: _____	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer: _____	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: _____	Filing Due Date for this form: _____
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:

Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier: _____	
Name of Authorized Agent Firm: _____	
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: _____	Date: _____
Name of Authorized Agent Employee: _____	
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: _____	
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: _____	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: _____	Filing Due Date for this form: _____
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	



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## Attachments

(700) Price Offerings including Voice Rate Data  
Data Collection Form

<010>	Study Area Code	250308
<015>	Study Area Name	NEW HOPE TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2567232050 ext..
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tammy.wen@hp.net

	Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date
<701>	1/1/2016
<702>	

[illegible]

(710) Broadband Price Offerings  
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0985/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	250308
<015>	Study Area Name	NEW HOPE TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contract Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tammy Weeks
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	2567232050 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tammy@earthlink.net

[illegible]

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**New Hope Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**

**Demonstration of Complying With Applicable Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules**

In establishing this certification in its *2005 ETC Order*,<sup>1</sup> the FCC found that an ETC must make “a specific commitment to objective measures to protect consumers.”<sup>2</sup> The FCC found that for wireless ETCs, compliance with CTIA’s Consumer Code for Wireless Service would satisfy this requirement” and that the sufficiency of other commitments would be considered on a case-by-case basis.<sup>3</sup> In this context, the FCC stated, “to the extent a wireline or wireless ETC applicant is subject to consumer protection obligations under state law, compliance with such laws may meet our requirement.”<sup>4</sup>

New Hope Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (“Company”) hereby certifies that it is complying with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules. The Company is subject to consumer protection obligations under state law. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) filing a Local Exchange Tariff pursuant to the requirements of the Alabama Public Service Commission’s Rules and Regulations, Telephone Rules, Rule T-12, Filing of Telephone Tariffs and The Code of Alabama 1975 Section 37-1-81, which disclose rates, terms and conditions of service to customers; (2) adherence to state consumer protection requirements governing telephone providers which require adherence to

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<sup>1</sup> *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, FCC 05-46 (rel. Mar. 17, 2005) (“*2005 ETC Order*”).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at para. 28.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* The FCC noted that under the CTIA Consumer Code, wireless carriers agree to: “(1) disclose rates and terms of service to customers; (2) make available maps showing where service is generally available; (3) provide contract terms to customers and confirm changes in service; (4) allow a trial period for new service; (5) provide specific disclosures in advertising; (6) separately identify carrier charges from taxes on billing statements; (7) provide customers the right to terminate service for changes to contract terms; (8) provide ready access to customer service; (9) promptly respond to consumer inquiries and complaints received from government agencies; and (10) abide by policies for protection of consumer privacy.” *Id.* at n. 71.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at n. 72.

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minimum service standards as identified in the Alabama Public Service Commission's Rules and Regulations, Telephone Rules, Rule T-21, protection against cramming and other deceptive practices as identified in Rule T-16(C)(11); (3) truth-in-billing requirements as identified in Rule T-16; and (4) CPNI, Red Flag Rules and other applicable federal and state requirements governing the protection of customers' privacy.

The Company offers the following as examples of how it meets the service quality and consumer protection requirements. Company maintains and updates appropriate tariffs with all rates, terms and conditions on file with the Alabama Public Service Commission and maintains a copy of such tariff for public inspection at Company offices. Company also sends all required bill messages and/or customer notifications, including but not limited to, do-not call list, cramming, truth-in billing, Low Income Support/Lifeline, etc. Company also maintains a CPNI Manual and Red Flag Manual. The Company also provides trouble reports to the Alabama Public Service Commission. The Company furthermore will comply with all requirements set forth in the 2015 Open Internet Order when it becomes effective.

**New Hope Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Ability to Function in Emergency Situations for Voice and Broadband**

New Hope Telephone Cooperative, Inc. hereby certifies that it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 47, Part 54, Subpart C, §54.202(a)(2)<sup>1</sup> and the Alabama Public Service Commission Rules and Regulations, Telephone Rules. The Company's network is designed to remain functional in emergency situations without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations as required by Section 54.202(a)(2). The Company can change call routing translations as needed to reroute traffic around damaged facilities. Changing call routing translations will also allow the Company to manage traffic spikes throughout its network, as emergency situations require.

Specifically, each central office building is supplied with standby generators and battery back-up that enable the central office to keep running until power is restored so long as fuel is available, or until system changes are made to reroute traffic. The Company's central office(s) that have twenty-four (24) hour maintenance coverage or have an automatic start engine alternator can provide a minimum of three (3) hours of batter reserve in accordance with the Alabama Public Service Commission Rules and Regulations, Telephone Rules, Rule T-21(L)(2). All other central office(s), as and if applicable, have a minimum of eight (8) hours of battery reserve In accordance

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<sup>1</sup> Section 54.202(a)(2) requires ETCs that are designated by the Commission to "demonstrate its ability to remain functional in emergency situations, including a demonstration that it has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations."

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New Hope Telephone Cooperative, Inc. - SAC 250308

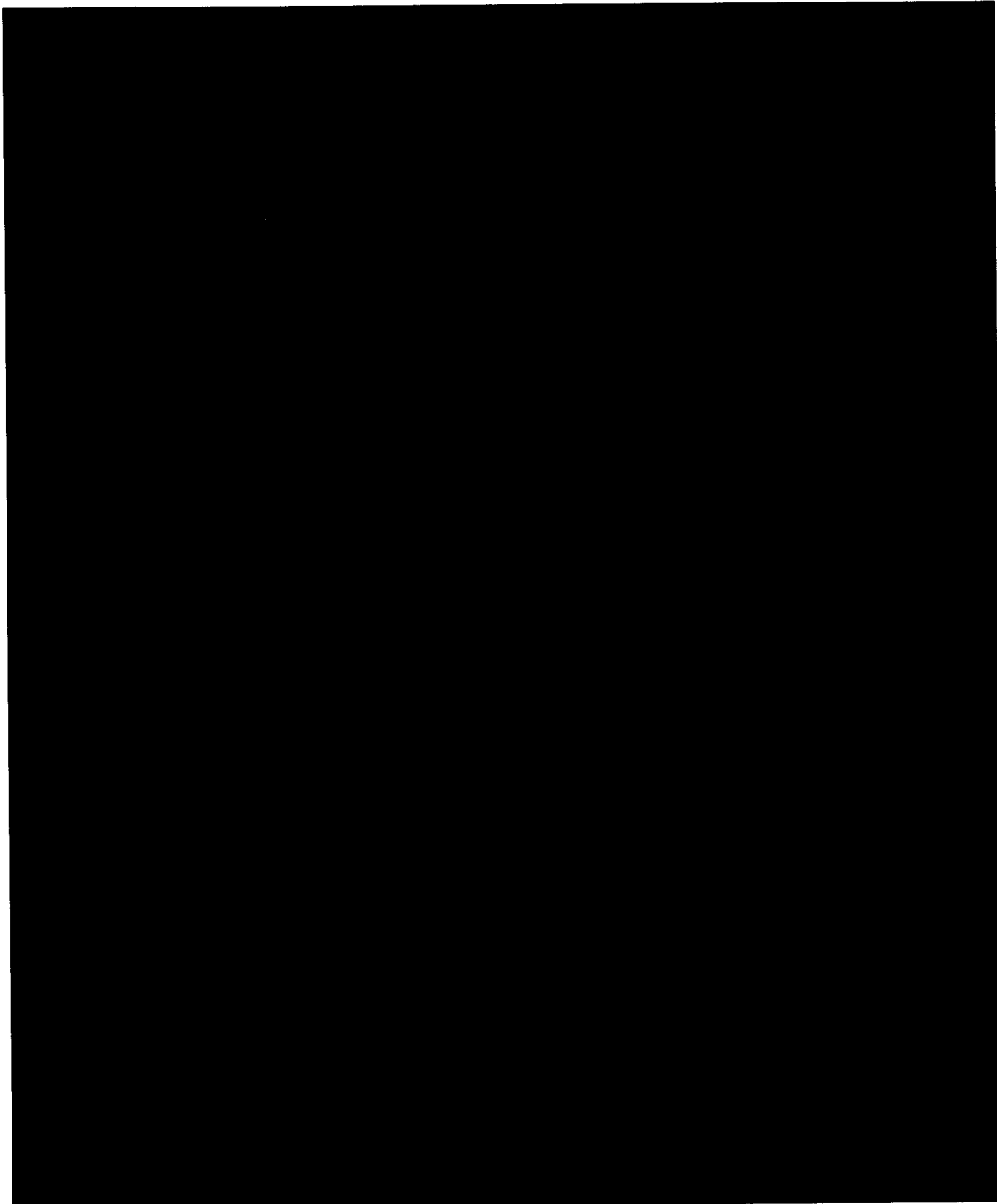
Attachment - Line 610

with Rule T-21(L)(2). Company's standby generators and battery back-up support both voice and broadband network equipment should an emergency situation occur.

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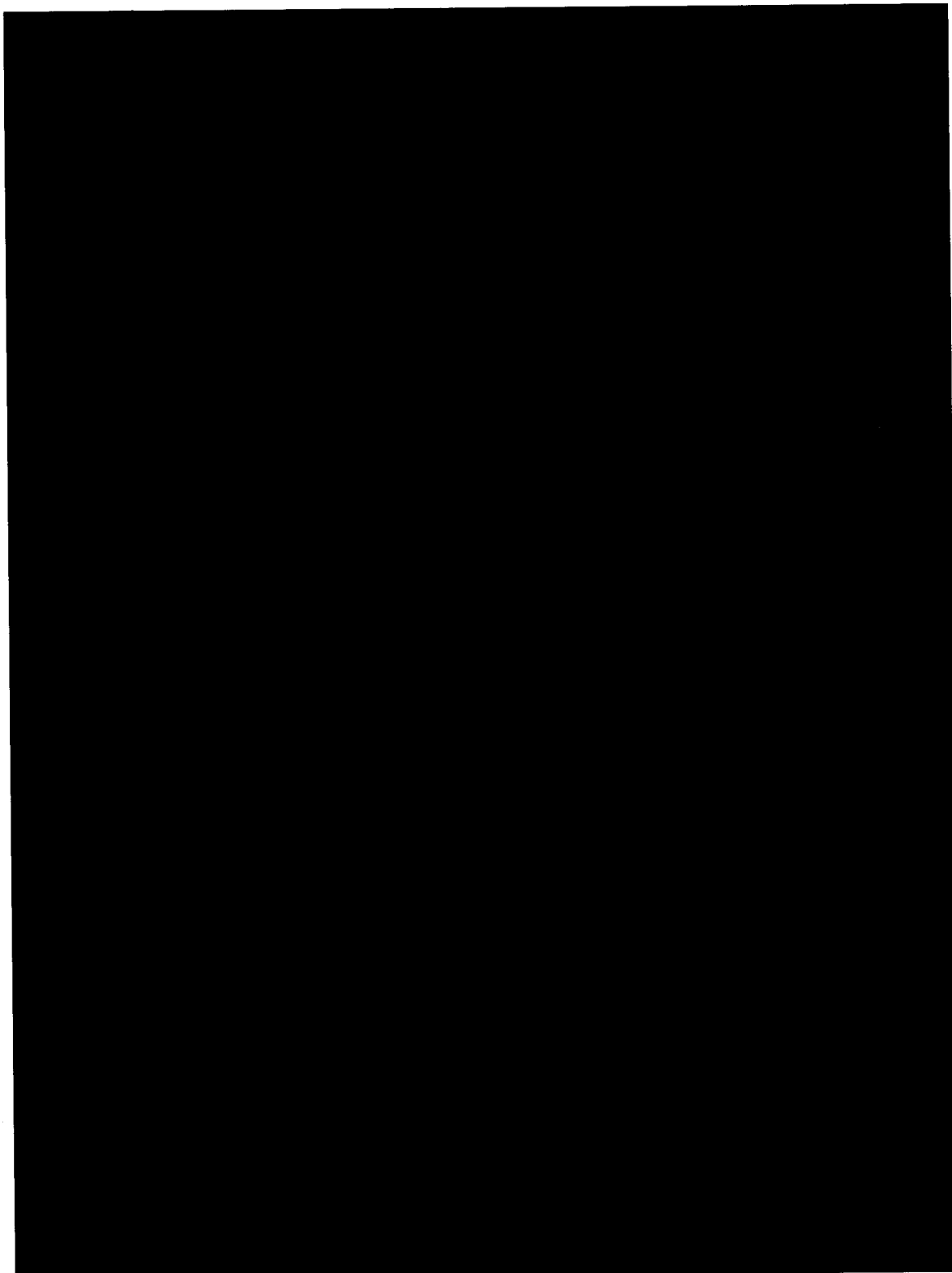
**Five-Year Network Improvement Plan Progress Report For**  
**New Hope Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**





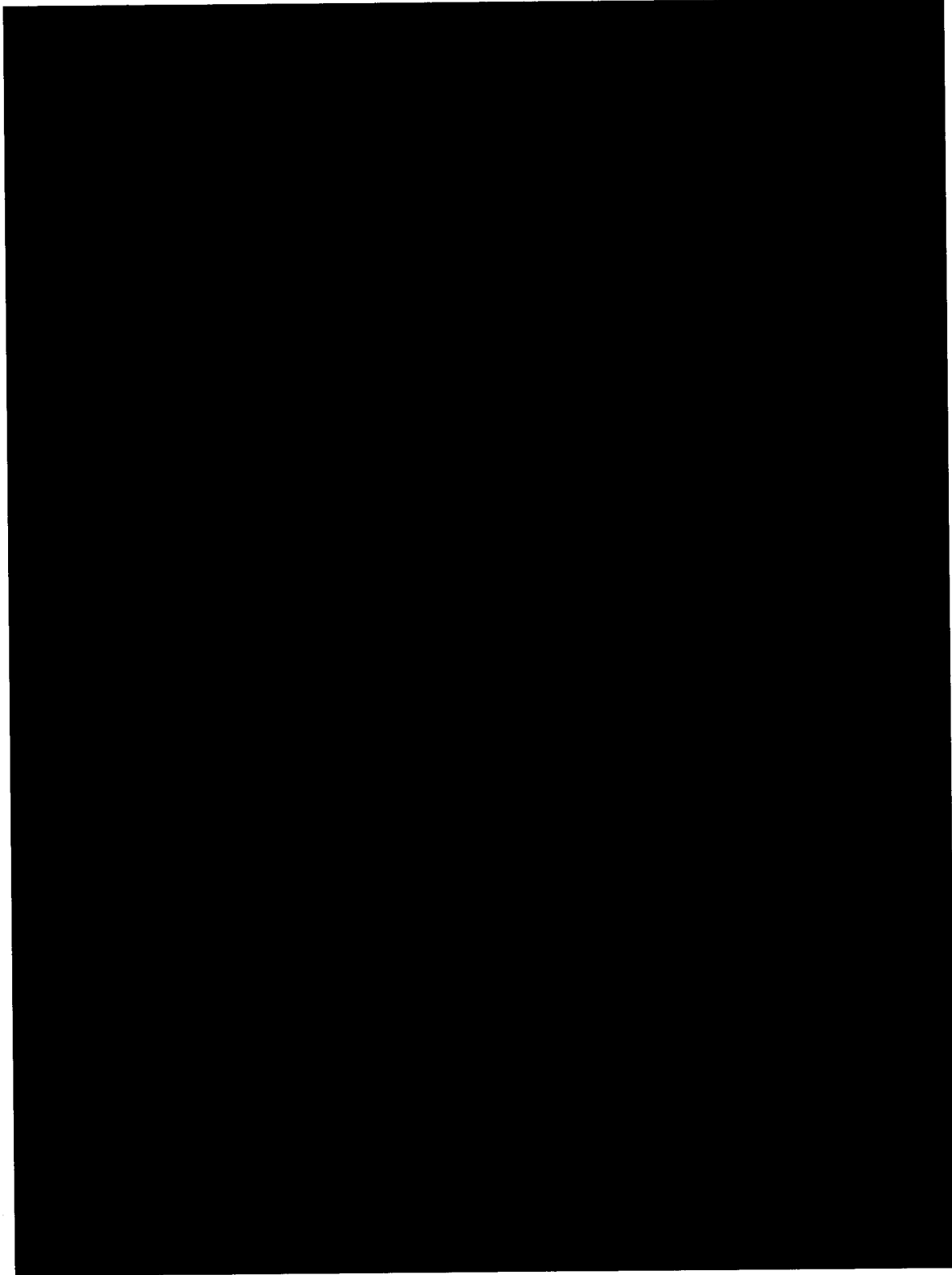
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Five-Year Plan and Progress Report  
([SACst112])  
Page 2



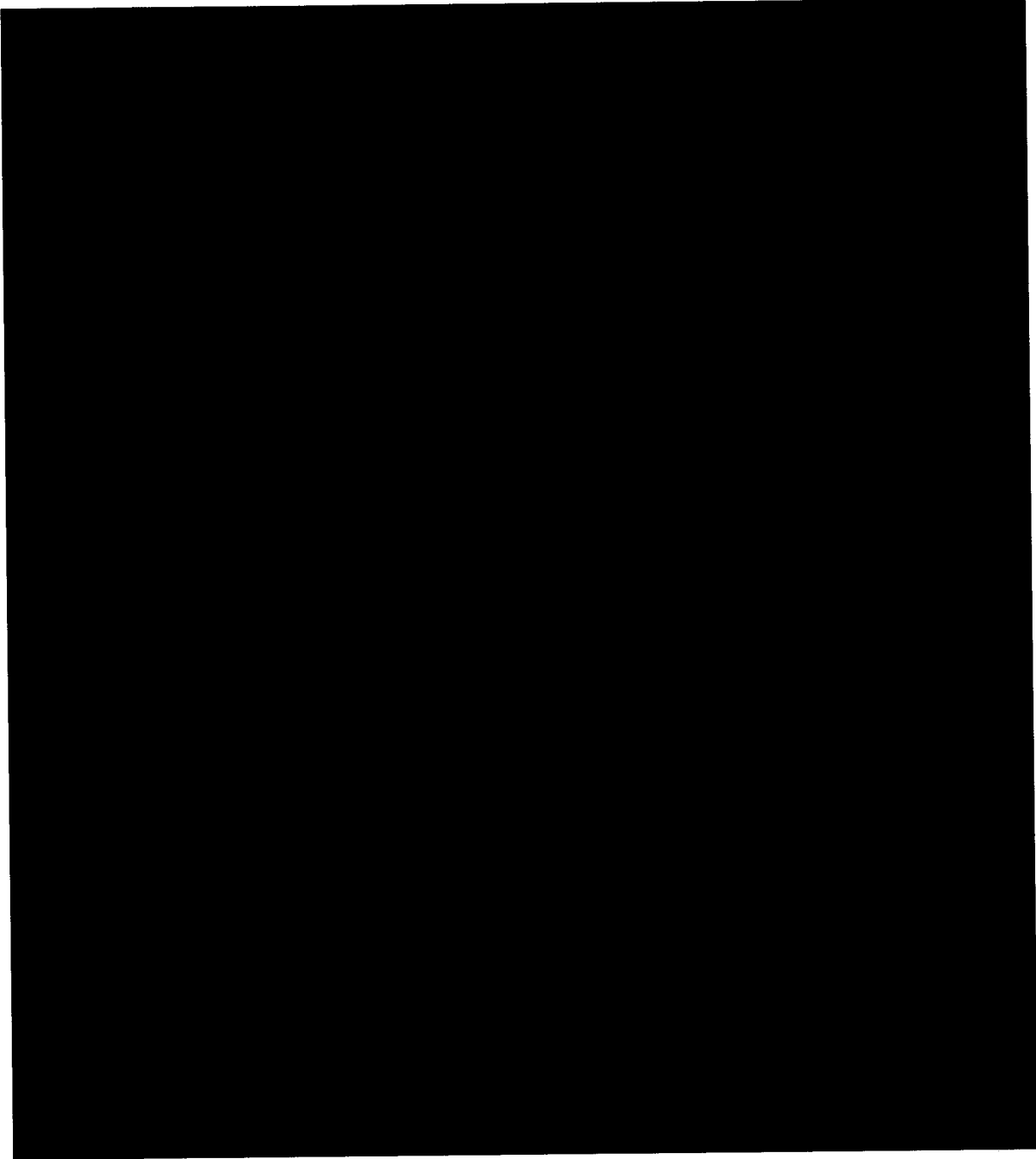
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Five-Year Plan and Progress Report  
([SACst112])  
Page 3



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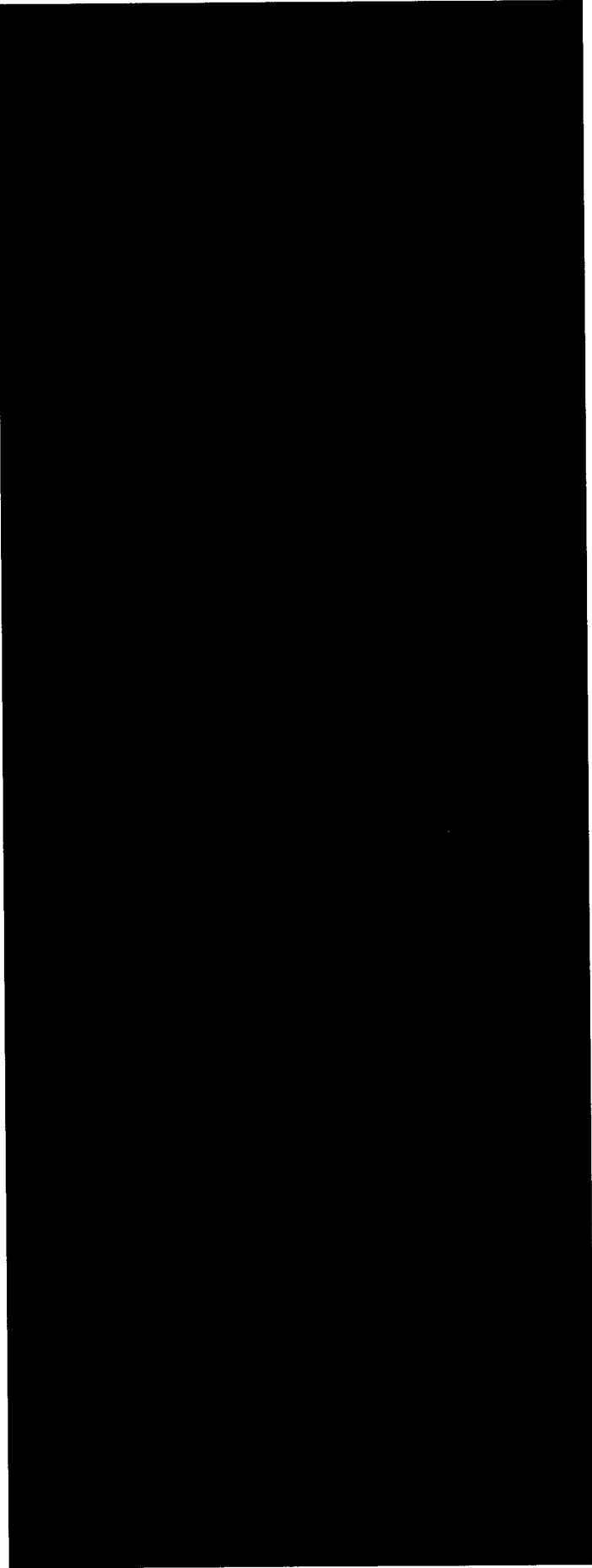
Five-Year Plan and Progress Report  
([SACst112])  
Page 4



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Appendix A - Progress Report on Five-Year Plan

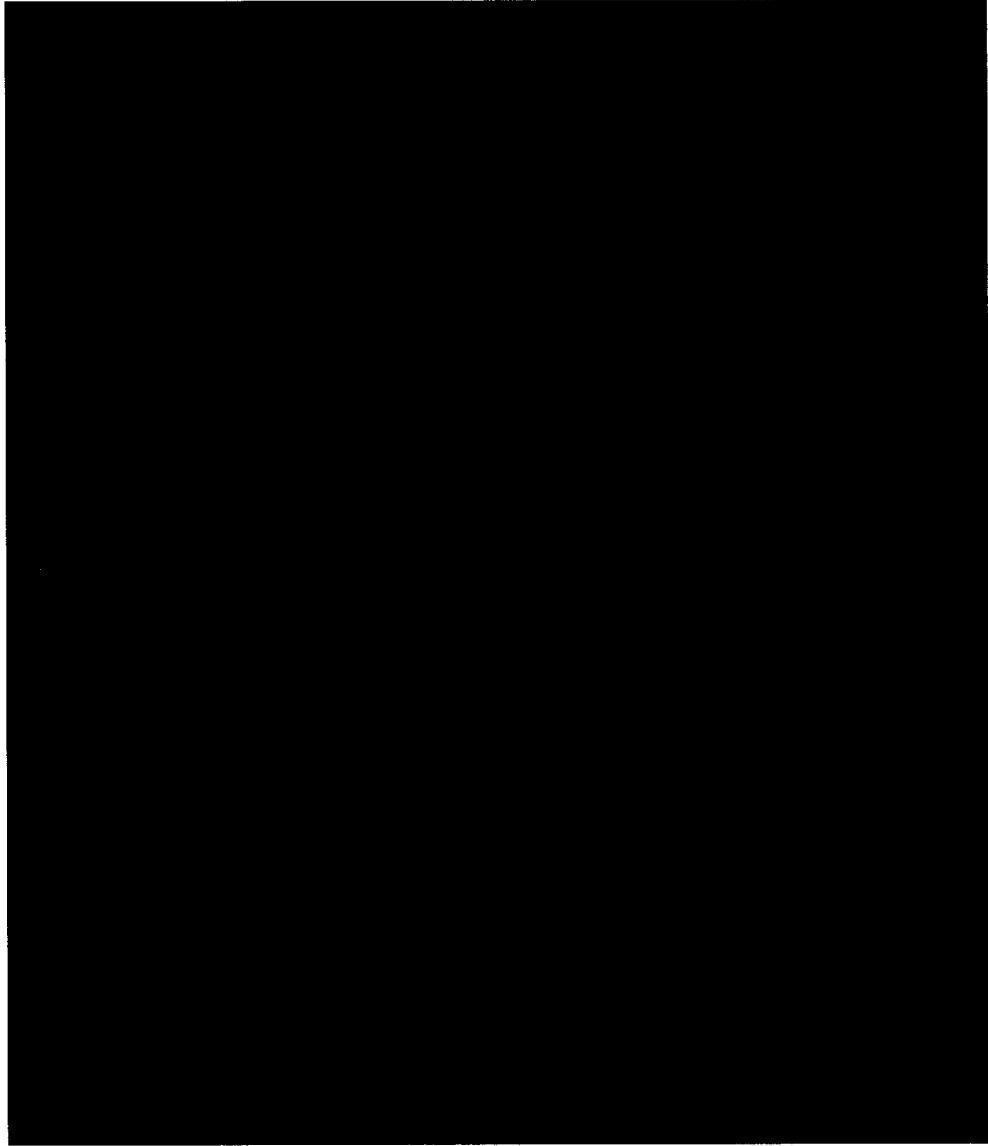
Study Area Code	250308
Study Area Name	New Hope Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Company Contact Name	Tammy Weeks
Contact Telephone Number	256-723-4211
Contact Email Address	<a href="mailto:tammw@nehp.net">tammw@nehp.net</a>

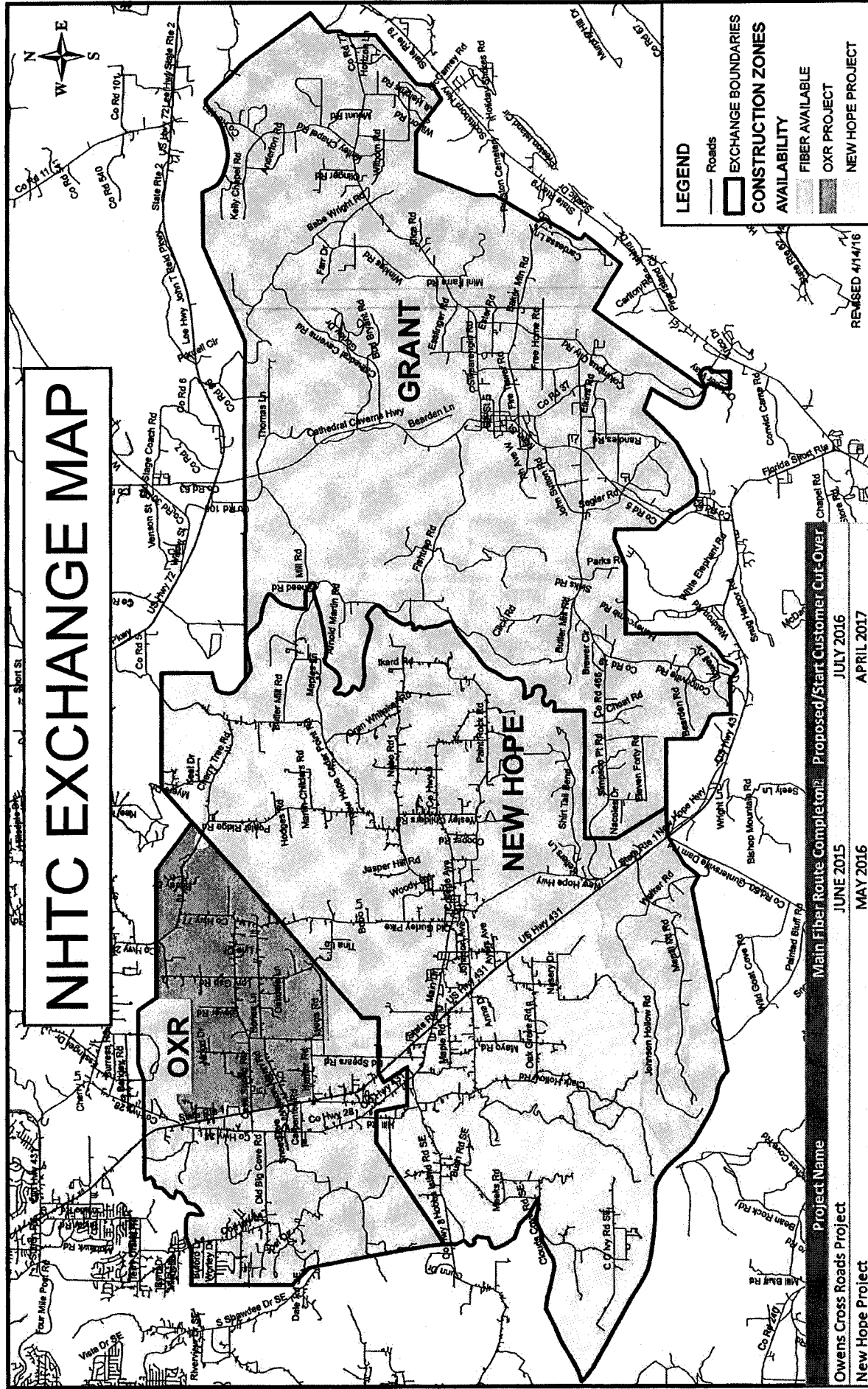


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Appendix B - Progress Report on Five-Year Plan

Study Area Code	250308
Study Area Name	New Hope Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Company Contact Name	Tammy Weeks
Contact Telephone Number	256-723-4211
Contact Email Address	<a href="mailto:tammvw@nehp.net">tammvw@nehp.net</a>





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**New Hope Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (SAC 250308)**

**Response to Line 3010 – Milestone Certification (47 CFR §54.313(f)(1)(i))**

New Hope Telephone Cooperative, Inc. hereby certifies that throughout 2015, it took reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request broadband service at actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream, with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas and that requests for such service are met within a reasonable amount of time. If a request for broadband service at actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream is unreasonable, and offering broadband service at actual speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream is reasonable, the Company offers broadband service at actual speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream.

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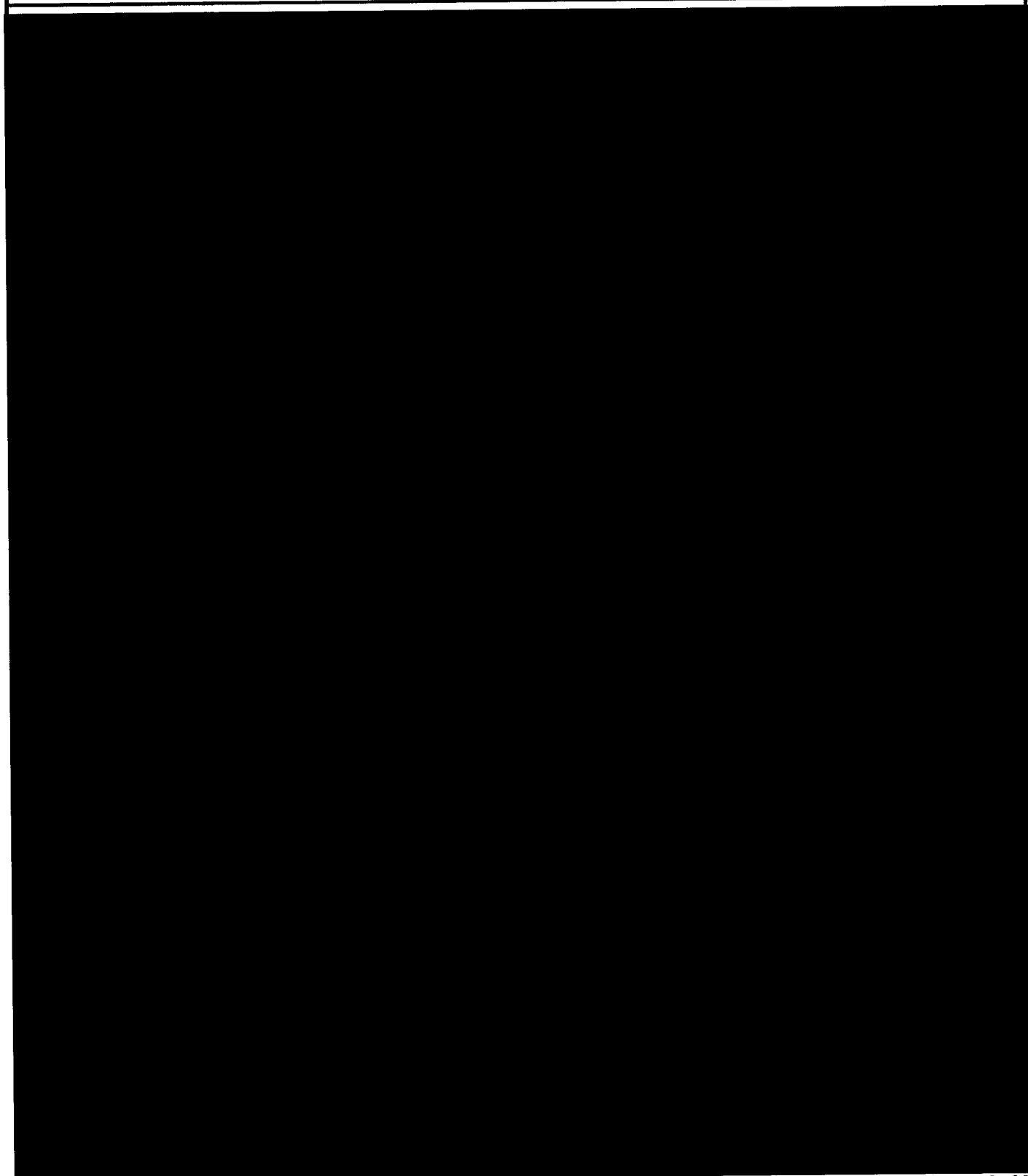
According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0572-0031. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 4 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

<b>USDA-RUS</b>  <b>OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</b>	<i>This data will be used by RUS to review your financial situation. Your response is required by 7 U.S.C. 901 et seq. and, subject to federal laws and regulations regarding confidential information, will be treated as confidential.</i>					
<i>INSTRUCTIONS-Submit report to RUS within 30 days after close of the period. For detailed instructions, see RUS Bulletin 1744-2. Report in whole dollars only.</i>	<b>BORROWER NAME</b>  New Hope Telephone Cooperative  (Prepared with Audited Data)					
	<b>PERIOD ENDING</b> December, 2015	<b>BORROWER DESIGNATION</b> AL0524				
<b>CERTIFICATION</b>  <i>We hereby certify that the entries in this report are in accordance with the accounts and other records of the system and reflect the status of the system to the best of our knowledge and belief.</i> <b>ALL INSURANCE REQUIRED BY 7 CFR PART 1788, CHAPTER XVII, RUS, WAS IN FORCE DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD AND RENEWALS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED FOR ALL POLICIES.</b>  <b>DURING THE PERIOD COVERED BY THIS REPORT PURSUANT TO PART 1788 OF 7CFR CHAPTER XVII</b> <i>(Check one of the following)</i>  <table border="0"><tr><td data-bbox="77 636 690 682"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All of the obligations under the RUS loan documents have been fulfilled in all material respects.</td><td data-bbox="690 636 1364 682"><input type="checkbox"/> There has been a default in the fulfillment of the obligations under the RUS loan documents. Said default(s) is/are specifically described in the Telecom Operating Report</td></tr></table> <table border="0"><tr><td data-bbox="100 703 402 730"><u>James Cook</u></td><td data-bbox="539 703 669 751"><u>6/28/2016</u> DATE</td></tr></table>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All of the obligations under the RUS loan documents have been fulfilled in all material respects.	<input type="checkbox"/> There has been a default in the fulfillment of the obligations under the RUS loan documents. Said default(s) is/are specifically described in the Telecom Operating Report	<u>James Cook</u>	<u>6/28/2016</u> DATE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All of the obligations under the RUS loan documents have been fulfilled in all material respects.	<input type="checkbox"/> There has been a default in the fulfillment of the obligations under the RUS loan documents. Said default(s) is/are specifically described in the Telecom Operating Report					
<u>James Cook</u>	<u>6/28/2016</u> DATE					



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<p>USDA-RUS</p> <p><b>OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</b></p>	<p>BORROWER DESIGNATION</p> <p>AL0524</p>
<p>INSTRUCTIONS- See RUS Bulletin 1744-2</p>	<p>PERIOD ENDING</p> <p>December, 2015</p>



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USDA-RUS

**OPERATING REPORT FOR  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS**

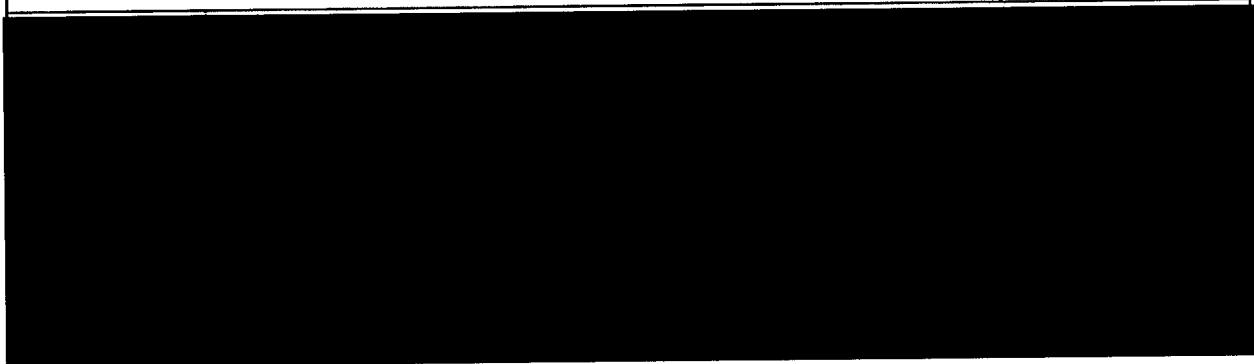
*INSTRUCTIONS - See RUS Bulletin 1744-2*

BORROWER DESIGNATION

AL0524

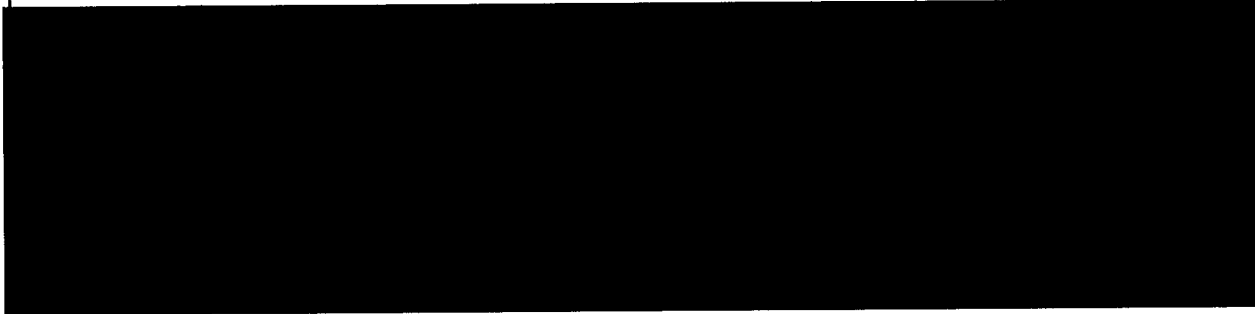
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December, 2015



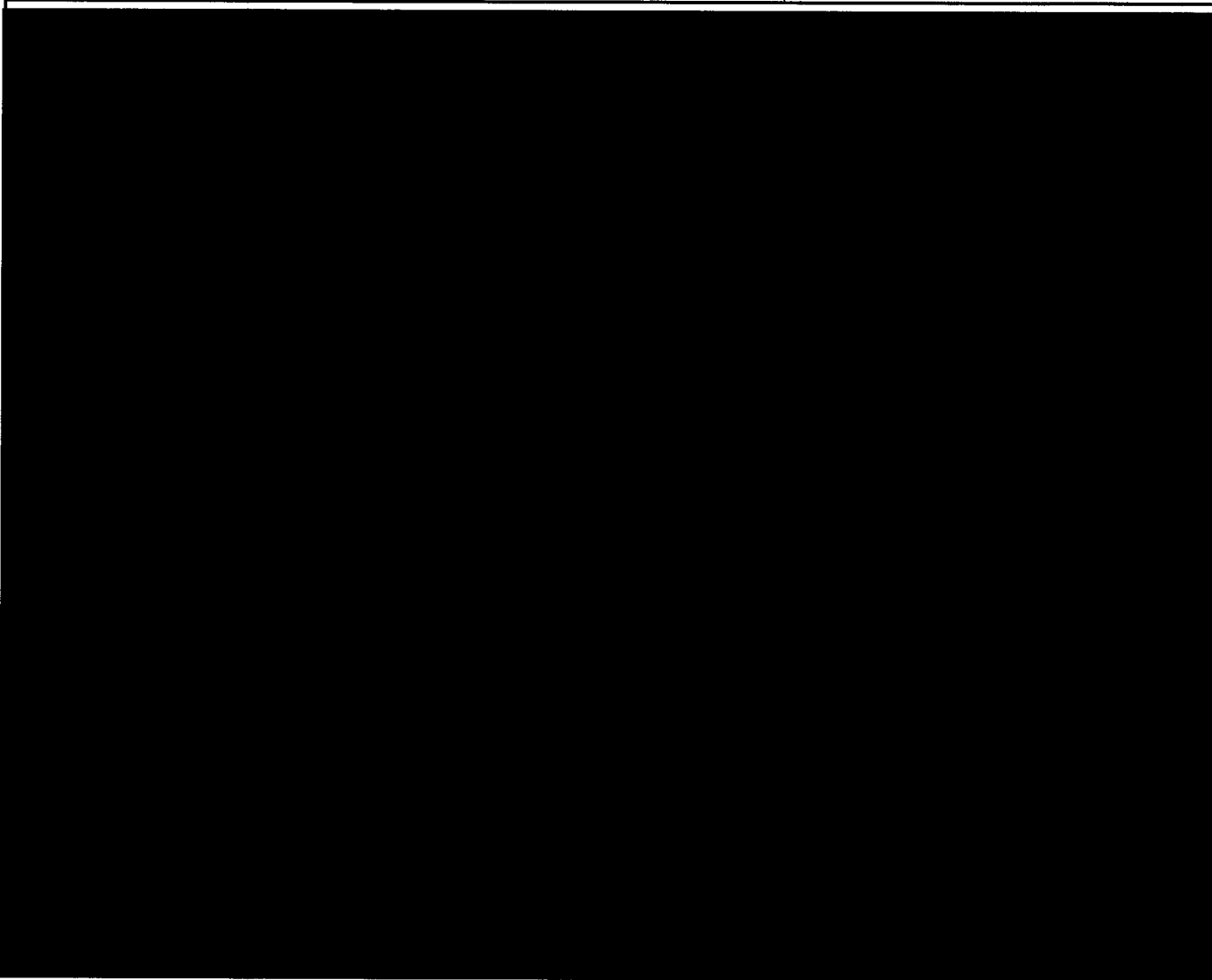
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<p>USDA-RUS</p> <p><b>OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</b></p> <p><i>INSTRUCTIONS - See RUS Bulletin 1744-2</i></p>	<p>BORROWER DESIGNATION AL0524</p> <p>PERIOD ENDED December, 2015</p>
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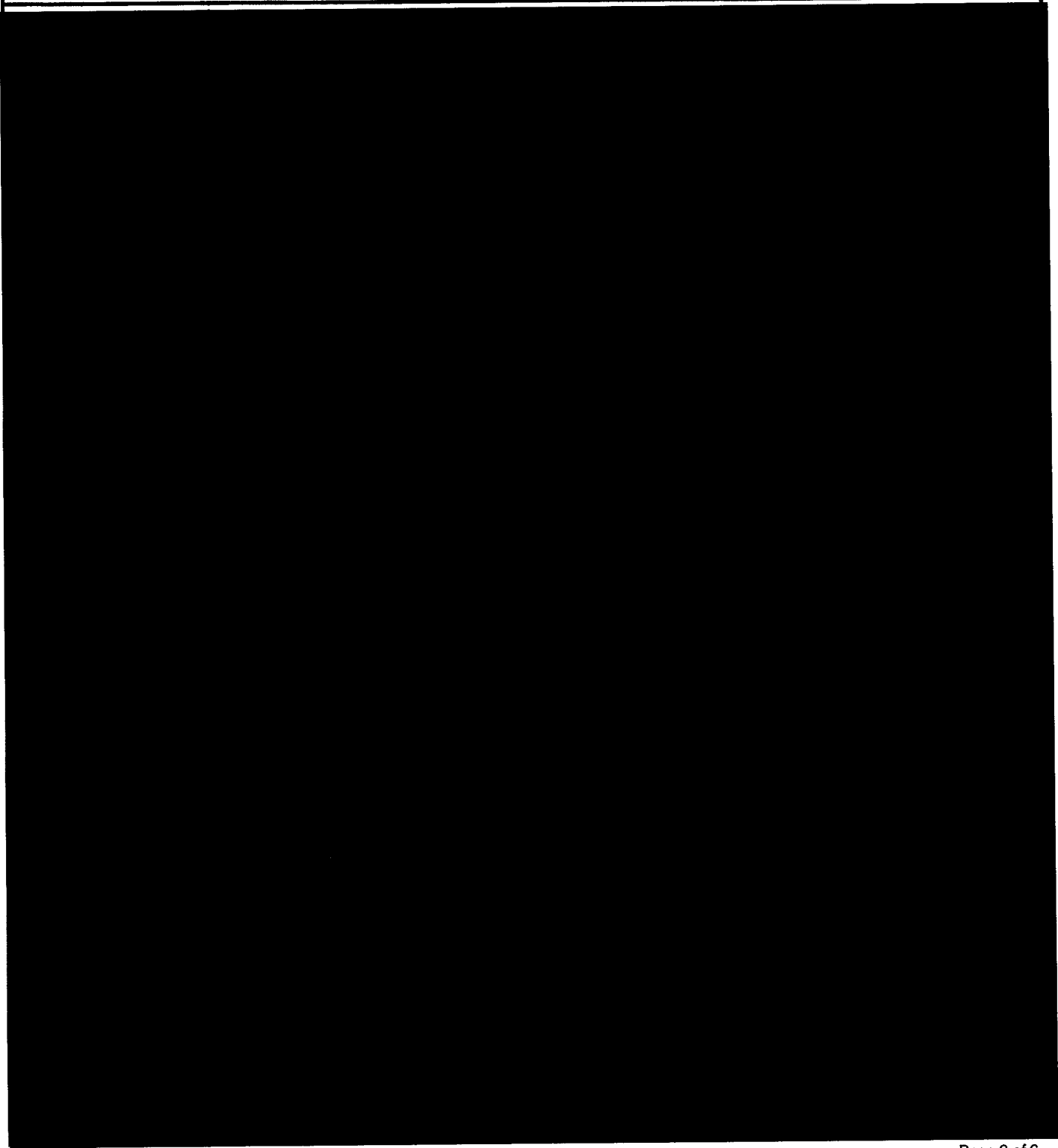
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<p>INSTRUCTIONS- See RUS Bulletin 1744-2</p>	<p>PERIOD ENDING</p> <p>December, 2015</p>



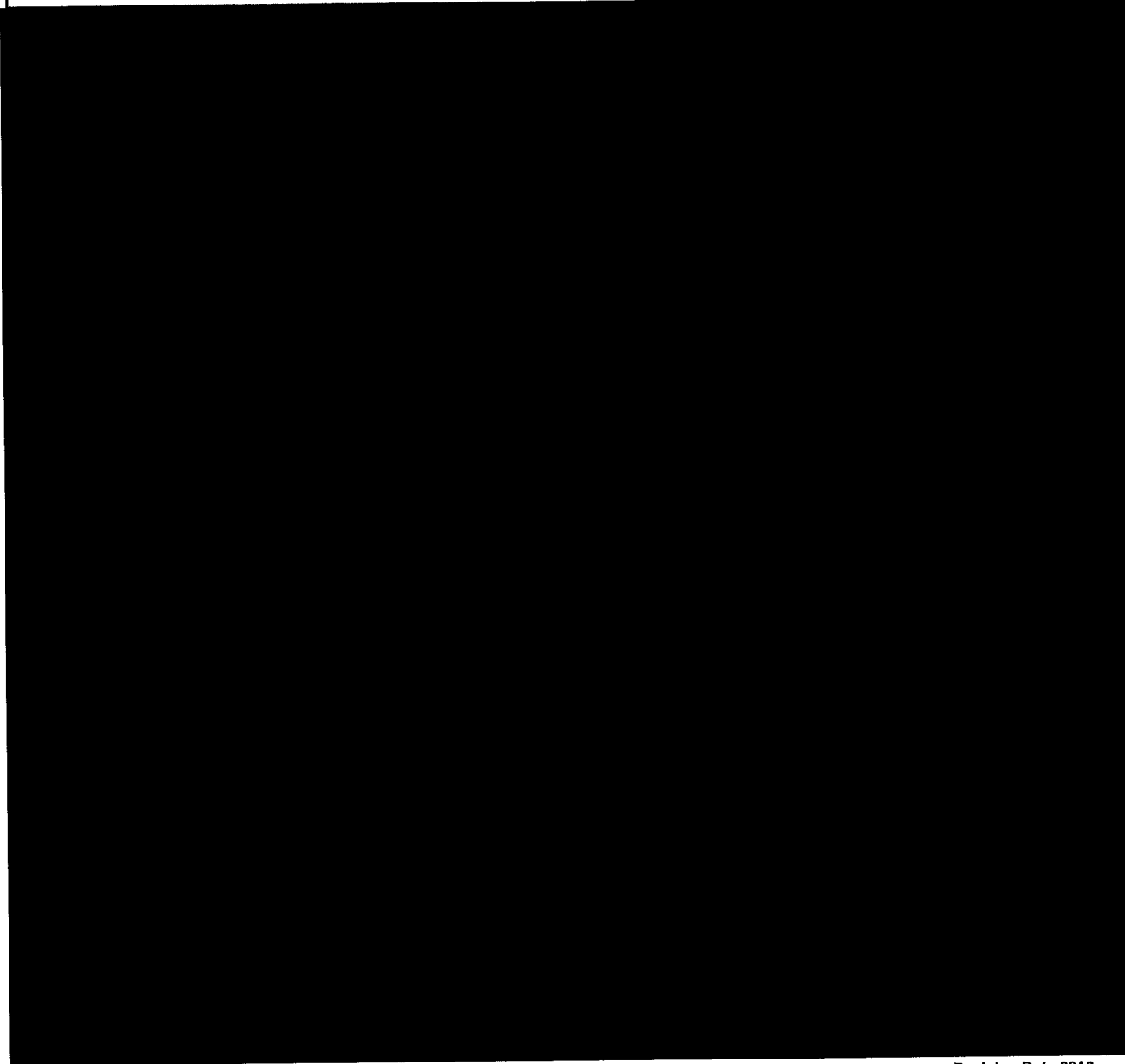
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<i>USDA-RUS</i> <b>OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</b>	BORROWER DESIGNATION AL0524
	PERIOD ENDING December, 2015



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<p>USDA-RUS</p> <p>OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</p>	<p>BORROWER DESIGNATION</p> <p>AL0524</p>
<p>INSTRUCTIONS – See help in the online application.</p>	<p>PERIOD ENDED</p> <p>December, 2015</p>



Revision Date 2010

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USDA-RUS  <b>OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</b>	BORROWER DESIGNATION  AL0524
INSTRUCTIONS - See RUS Bulletin 1744-2	PERIOD ENDED December, 2015
<b>NOTES TO THE OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</b>	

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USDA-RUS  <b>OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</b>	BORROWER DESIGNATION  AL0524
INSTRUCTIONS - See RUS Bulletin 1744-2	PERIOD ENDED December, 2015
<b>CERTIFICATION LOAN DEFAULT NOTES TO THE OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</b>	



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Online Certification System - E-File - USAC.org

6/29/2016



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**CONFIRMATION**

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**Congratulations. Your filing has been successfully certified.**

Filing 1 was successfully certified on Wed 29 Jun 16 11:50:20 AM EDT by tammyw@nehp.net .

SAC : 250308

498 ID : 143001554

Carrier Name : NEW HOPE TEL COOP

Program Year : 2017

A confirmation email will be sent to the email address on record for your user ID. Please email USAC at [HCCERTS@USAC.ORG](mailto:HCCERTS@USAC.ORG) if you do not receive this email within 24 hours.

Please take this quick survey and give us your thoughts! Your feedback will help improve the filing process. [Take Survey](#)

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